

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE STORM DRAIN

WHEN GRASS CLIPPINGS, PET WASTE, AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES AND OTHER CHEMICALS WASH DOWN A STORM DRAIN,

THEY DON'T GO AWAY. THEY FLOW INTO RIVERS AND LAKES, HARMING PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND CONTAMINATING THE WATER WE DRINK. THE TECHNICAL

TERM IS "NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION." HERE'S HOW TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T HELP FEED THE STORM DRAIN:



YARD

- One of our biggest sources of nonpoint source pollution comes from yards due to over-watering and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. Here are some tips for reducing nonpoint source pollution from your yard.
- Use native and adapted plants and grasses that require less water and fertilizer.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and to insulate and nourish the soil.
- Compost leaves, grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps in a backyard bin.
- Use compost or other organic and botanical products or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer on your lawn.
- Sweep fertilizer and soil spilled on paved areas to the lawn.
- Use safe pest controls such as diluted soap solutions, botanicals such as pyrethrins and horticultural oils and plants that attract beneficial insects and yard-friendly species.
- If you must use pesticides or herbicides for eradication, do not apply if rain is forecast.
- See TCEQ Web site to order the free publication, *Green Guide to Yard Care*.

AUTO

- Each year Texans improperly dump millions of gallons of used motor oil. One quart can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water, enough water to supply a family of four for a year! Autos contribute to nonpoint source pollution in other ways, too.
- When you change your motor oil, take care not to spill or leave it on the ground or driveway. Call 1-800-CLEAN UP for the motor oil recycling center nearest you.
- Do not hose spilled oil, brake fluid, grease or antifreeze into the street. Wipe or scoop it up and dispose of it properly.
- Recycle motor oils, filters, fluids and batteries by taking them to a service station that has a recycling program.
- Have your auto inspected regularly and repair oil and other fluid leaks immediately.
- Use biodegradable or nontoxic soap to wash your auto.
- Drive less to reduce auto runoff. Consolidate your trips, carpool, rideshare or use mass transit whenever possible.

PETS

- Every year thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains and into rivers, lakes and other sources of drinking water. For your health and the health of others, please pick up after your pet.
- Pick up pet waste from your lawn. It is not a fertilizer.
- Carry a plastic or disposable bag to pick up pet waste in your yard and while walking your dog.
- Properly dispose of pet waste in a garbage can or flush it down the toilet.
- Never allow pet waste to wash into storm drains.
- Encourage friends and family to pick up after their pets.

HOME

- Although most cleaners, paints and pesticides used at home go into the trash or down the drain, if they are used outside or improperly discarded, they create nonpoint source pollution.
- Use cleaning products that are phosphate-free, biodegradable or nontoxic, especially if they are used outdoors. Avoid products with ammonia, chlorine, diethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid and petroleum solvents.
- Use water-based paints or natural earth pigment finishes and dispose of properly.
- As an alternative to harsh pool chemicals, install ozone or ultraviolet light systems.
- Discourage insects with good housekeeping. Seal cracks, keep windows and doors airtight and keep food and water in sealed containers.
- If you must eradicate insects, avoid toxic chemicals.
- Use pest control companies that use less toxic products.
- Inspect septic systems every year and pump out every two to five years.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

Please recycle or share unused products before you discard them.

Discard in the trash can.	Pour down drain with plenty of water.	Take to household hazardous waste collection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fertilizer• Pet waste• Solidified latex paint• Solidified nail polish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alcohol-based lotions• Ammonia-based cleaners• Bathroom cleaners, disinfectants• Drain, window cleaners• Expired medicine• Hair color, relaxer• Paintbrush cleaner with trisodium phosphate• Water-based glue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automotive fluids• Batteries, battery acid• Car wax• Floor, furniture polish• Gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel• Metal polish with solvent• Mothballs• Oil-based paint products• Oven cleaner• Pesticides, weed killer• Shoe dye• Solvent-based glue• Turpentine• Varnish, wood preservative



1-800-CLEAN UP / www.cleanup.org
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality: www.tceq.state.tx.us
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/owow/nps/index.html
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